



EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/18/09
SB 200

March 17, 2009

Senate Natural Resources Committee
RE: SB 200

Chairman Milburn and members of the committee,

My name is Jim Carlson. I am director of Environmental Health at the Missoula City-County Health Department. I am also a 14 year member of the Tri-State Water Quality Council. I am speaking on behalf of the Department and the City and County of Missoula.

The Clark Fork River violates State standards for phosphorus and excessive algal growth from it's headwaters in Deer Lodge County to it's confluence with the Flathead River. Millions of dollars have been spent by municipal and industrial discharges on this stretch of the river over the past twenty years to help alleviate these violations. This bill is designed further the cleanup effort by providing for the elimination of automatic dishwasher detergent containing phosphorus in the counties that occupy the portion of Clark Fork watershed that violates the state standard.

Maryland, Vermont, Minnesota, Illinois, Washington state, Michigan, Massachusetts, Manitoba and Quebec all have passed requirements to curtail the use of phosphate containing dish detergent and most have an effective date of July 2010. These states have already recognized the need to keep unnecessary pollutants out of the waste stream.

In Montana increasing summertime temperatures combined with lower rainfall and a good dose of phosphorus from sewage plants and near stream septic systems combine to make the Clark Fork look like something other than a Rocky Mountain trout stream. You don't need to be an aquatic biologist to know that the river is not right when you see the summertime algae bloom.

Research conducted in Lolo, Montana indicates that dishwasher detergent constitutes 15-20 percent of the phosphorus discharged from the sewage treatment plant. This study gave results in the same range as studies elsewhere in the country.

The elimination of phosphorus from dishwasher detergent is doable. Consumer Reports lists several no phosphorus products that do a good job of cleaning dishes at a price similar to dish detergent with phosphorus. The detergent industry has indicated that it will make a broader selection available by the July 2010 deadline.

On behalf of the Missoula City Sewage Treatment we also urge passage of this bill. The 15 - 20% reduction in phosphorus loading accomplished, will make it possible to keep discharge loading to the river of down while providing for growth and new connections. The City of Missoula put a new 19 million dollar nutrient removal system into operation in 2004.

This bill is necessary to work toward compliance with State standards in the State waters of the Clark Fork basin. We need State leadership to help us accomplish this goal. Please support Senate Bill 200.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Carlson
Director of Environmental Health

No More “Pho” in our H₂O

PLEASE PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY Support Senate Bill 200

An Act Banning the Sale of Phosphorus-Containing Household Cleaning Products

Too much phosphorus in our rivers and streams degrades water quality and harms fish habitat. Household cleaning products are one of the main unnatural contributors of phosphorus to our waters.

The cheapest, easiest way to remove phosphorus from our rivers is to ***stop it from entering our water in the first place***—especially from sewer treatment plants, septic systems, and storm drains.

- Flathead and Lake Counties, and Missoula and Deer Lodge cities, already banned laundry detergents that contain phosphates—and the water is remarkably cleaner!
- A recent study showed that 15% of the total phosphorus entering the wastewater treatment plant in Lolo, MT originated from dishwashing detergents.
- Several phosphate-free detergent brands are already available: Seventh Generation, Trader Joe's and Ecover.
- The national Soap and Detergent Association supports this bill, and pledged to produce more varieties by July 1, 2010, which is the date this ban would take effect in Montana.
- This bill would apply to counties where water bodies exceed the state's water quality standards for phosphorus—currently, only the 10 counties along the Clark Fork River.
- 12 states have already passed bans on phosphate-containing cleaning products, including Washington state.